Development Board for backward region of Maharashtra

*138. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has sent a communication to the Prime Minister for setting up a Development Board under article 371(2) of the Constitution for the backward region of Maharashtra;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to call a joint meeting of Members of Parliament belonging to Maharashtra and the Chief Minister of that State with the Prime Minister to take early decision in this regard;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, by when Government would call the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) The Government of Maharashtra have sent proposals at different points of time for setting up of Development Board in terms of article 371(2) of the Constitution. The latest was received in March, 1991.

(b) At present there is no such proposal under consideration of government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Free call centres at certain places in Delhi

*139. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter M.T.N.L. has announced a bonanza of free calls centres at certain places of Delhi to commemorate 45th Independence of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to extend this bonanza to other important places of Delhi like Railway Station and Inter-State Bus Terminal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to provide similar facilities at important places of States and Union Territories; and

(f) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a), (b), (e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to provide free telephone service with only local call facility at all Distric, Hospitals and major hospitals in cities all over the country. These telephones are being provided near emergency/casualty wards of the hospitals.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration at present. Free telephones have been povided in hospitals for emergencies as a life saving help to the patients. Railway stations, Bus terminals, etc. do not fall in his category. However, pay phones/public telephones are provided at such places.

Arrest of foreigners having links with CIA AND LTTE

*140. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreigners having links with CIA and LTTE had been apprehended in Bombay in July this year;

(b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the nature of their actvities; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?